

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the existing abstract with the following amended abstract:

ABSTRACT

A method and system are disclosed for determining the topic of a conversation and obtaining and presenting related content. The disclosed system provides a “creative inspirator” in an ongoing conversation. The system extracts keywords from the conversation and utilizes the keywords to determine the topic(s) being discussed. The disclosed system then conducts searches to obtain supplemental content based on the topic(s) of the conversation. The content can be presented to the participants in the conversation to supplement their discussion. A method is also disclosed for determining the topic of a text document including transcripts of audio tracks, newspaper articles, and journal papers.

Please replace the paragraph on page 9, lines 17-25 with the following amended paragraph:

During step 430, the hypernym trees for all senses (semantic meanings) of all words in the wordstem set are determined. A hypernym is the generic term used to designate a whole class of specific instances (i.e., Y is a hypernym of X if X is a type of Y). For example, 'car' is a kind of 'vehicle,' so thus 'vehicle' is a hypernym of 'car.' A hypernym tree is a tree of all hypernyms of a word up to the highest level in the a corresponding hierarchy, including the word itself.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 26 through page 10, line 9 with the following amended paragraph:

A comparison is then made between all pairs of hypernym trees to find a common parent at a specific level (or lower) in the hierarchy during step 440. (For example, as discussed further herein below, FIG. 5E illustrates common parents 550 and level-5 parents 555 for the pairs of hypernym trees listed in the first two fields of each row of FIG. 5E, the first and second fields corresponding to the columns designated Word 1 and Word 2, respectively. As shown in FIG. 5E, for the illustrative example, six pairs of hypernym trees are compared, resulting in a finding of corresponding common parents and level-5 parents per each respective pair of hypernym trees.) A common parent is the first hypernym in a hypernym tree that is the same for two or more words in the keyword set. It is noted that a level-5 parent, for instance, is an entry in the hierarchy at the fifth level, four steps down from the highest level in the hierarchy, that is either a hypernym of a common parent or a common parent by itself. The level selected to be the specified level should have an appropriate level of abstraction such that the topic is not so specific that no relevant content can be found and not so abstract that the content discovered is not relevant to the conversation. In the present embodiment, level-5 is selected as the specified level in the hierarchy.

Please replace the paragraph on page 10, lines 10-21 with the following amended paragraph:

A search is then conducted to find the corresponding level-5 parent(s) for all common parent(s) (step 450). ~~The hyponym~~ Hyponym trees are then determined for all the senses of the level-5 parents (step 460). A hyponym is the specific term used to designate a member of a class X. In particular, X is a hyponym of Y if X is a type of Y. For example, a i.e., 'car' is a type of 'vehicle', thus 'se 'car' is the hyponym of 'vehicle.' (In comparison, as discussed earlier with respect to hypernym, Y is a hypernym of X if X is a type of Y, thus 'vehicle' is a hypernym of 'car'.) A hyponym tree is a tree of all hyponyms of a word down to the lowest level in the hierarchy, including the word itself. For each of the hyponym trees, the number of words that are common to the hyponym tree and the set of wordstems ~~keywords~~ are counted (step 470). (Wordstems and keywords are discussed further herein, for example, with reference to FIGs. 5C and 5B, wherein the wordstems (FIG. 5C) are determined from the keywords (FIG. 5B).) Stated in another way, a word count is determined for each hyponym tree. Each word count represents the number of words (i.e., a count of words) determined to be common between the respective hyponym tree and the wordstem set. For example, as discussed further herein below, FIG. 5F illustrates the hyponym trees "Device" and "Conveyance,transport" with respect to corresponding level-5 parents of FIG. 5E. In the example of FIG. 5F, the hyponym tree "Device" has a flattened portion that includes "Mechanism, mechanical device, wheelwork, train, machine, computer" and the hyponym tree "Conveyance,transport" has a flattened portion the includes "Public transport, train, vehicle, wheeled vehicle, motor vehicle, car." For the hyponym tree "Device," there are two words in common with the set of wordstems (FIG. 5C), i.e., "train" and "computer," and thus the word count equals two (2). For the hyponym tree "Conveyance,transport," there are three words in common with the set of wordstems

(FIG. 5C), i.e., "train," "car," and "vehicle," and thus the word count equals three (3). Note that, in this example, the wordstem set of FIG. 5C includes four (4) wordstems.

Please replace the paragraph on page 11, lines 15-28 with the following amended paragraph:

For example, consider the sentence 510 in Fig. 5A from the transcript of a conversation. The keyword set 520 for this sentence is shown in FIG. 5B {computers/N, trains/N, vehicles/N, cars/N} where /N signifies that the preceding word is a noun. For this keyword set, the wordstems 530 {computer/N, train/N, vehicle/N, car/N} would be determined (step 420; Fig. 5C). The hypernym ~~tree~~ 540 trees would then be determined (step 430), for example, a portion of which is the hypernym trees 540 and 542, as illustrated in FIG. 5D. For this example, FIG. 5E shows the common parents 550 and level-5 parents 555 for the pairs of hypernym trees listed in the first two fields and FIG. 5F shows a flattened part 560, 565 of the hyponym trees of level-5 parents {device} and {conveyance, transport}, respectively.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 29 through page 12, line 8 with the following amended paragraph:

In the present example, the number of words in the hyponym tree of {device} that are also in the wordstem set is determined to be two: 'computer' and 'train.' Similarly, the number of words in the hyponym tree of {conveyance, transport} that are also in the set is determined to be three: 'train,' 'vehicle,' and 'car.' The coverage of {device} is therefore 1/2 (i.e. corresponding to a word count of 2 out of 4 words in common with the wordstem set); the coverage of {conveyance, transport} is 3/4 (i.e. corresponding to a word count of 3 out of 4 words in common with the wordstem set). At step 480, both level-5 parents would be reported and the topic would be set to {conveyance, transport} (step 490) since it has the highest associated word count.